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THE
M E M O I R S

O F

Mrs. Harriot Er——g——n.

C O N T A I N I N G

Her AMOURS, INTRIGUES, and TETE-A-TETES, with the
following well-known Characters, viz:

Colonel M——N.
Colonel T——L——N.
Captain SM——H.
Captain BU——Y.
Captain R——TS.
Captain S——H——Y.
Captain T——N——D.
Sir JOHN L——.
Lord D——.

SIR PETER B——.
Hon. Mr. L——X.
Rev. Mr. WA——R.
——Mr. B——N.
GEORGE R——N, Esq.
Mr. C——K.
Mr. D——LS.
Mr. L——E.
Mr. C——R.

A L S O,

Coachmen, Footmen, Postillions, Butlers, Gardeners, Post-Chaises,
Boys, Grooms, Foot-boys, and many Others

L O N D O N :

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TO the PUBLIC.

IN the Trial of Mrs. Er——g——n, nothing could be inserted but the legal evidence to support the charge of adultery, and procure a divorce ; but, though our Memoirs of that Lady have not been solemnly attested before a surrogate of Doctors Commons, we flatter ourselves that we are presenting a faithful narrative to the Public, of those exploits which have not been exhibited before a Court. It may be considered as a kind of a supplemental libel, supplying the deficiencies of the trial, as it contains many interesting particulars which were not essentially necessary to be adduced upon the trial.

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 an extent that we are presenting a
 to the all-Devoted Community, we feel
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 young could be induced but the legal
 in the trial of her life.

M E M O I R S

O F

Mrs. E * * * * N G * * N.

OF all the frail fair-ones whose actions have deserved enrolment in the Annals of Gallantry, not one has hitherto been in so curious a predicament as the subject of these Memoirs, who remains destitute of excuse or apology for her conduct; as, in not a single instance, among her numerous amours does she appear to have shewn the least degree of taste, delicacy or sentiment. She can neither plead the cruelty of her husband, the seductions of an artful lover, the force of attachment, nor the influence of any passion, but an ungovernable propensity to the sex at large. She was perfectly unrestrained in her connections—perfectly disinterested in her amours, and while she possessed the *man*, never once regarded the lover: The conduct of Mrs. E—g—n would require more plausibility to cover its enormity than either the pen of *Constantia Philips*, or Mrs. *Bellamy*, could lend it.—There is indeed some *apology* for weakness, but none for vice.

The parents of Miss C—n, (the *maiden* name of this modern *Messelina*) lived at *Isleworth*, in the county of *Middlesex*, and being decent, respectable people, brought her up in a sober and virtuous manner; but from the earliest moments in which female vanity begins to operate,

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rate, she was distinguished by the levity and meretricious appearance of her dress, the unbounded freedom of her manners, her attachment to company, and her peculiar fondness for that of the other sex.

At a very early age, however, she was taken into the service of Mr. E—g—n, who then resided entirely with his mother, at *Battersea*; and being now free from parental controul, though not arrived at sixteen years of age, she gave full scope to the gaiety of her temper, and presently shone forth in her native character.—She entirely assumed the woman, to which her personal appearance gave her every claim;—for she was tall, very well made, somewhat inclined to the jolly, or *embon point*, had regular features, a good complexion, and altogether a pleasing countenance; her mode of dress was however *outré* and licentious to an extreme; her petticoats were never *longer* than necessary, by which means she could display a tolerable neat leg and ankle; and her stays were cut remarkably low, to exhibit a very fair and well-formed bosom, that was seldom hid by any other covering than a slight gauze handkerchief. Nor were her conversation and behaviour less free than her dress, especially when directed to men: all of whom received an equal welcome, whether distinguished by a black coat or a red one.—whether in the habit of a gentleman or a foot-boy:—in short, what old *Dorcas* says of herself, might be truly applied to *Harriot*.

She rattled, she rambled, she laughed, and where'er
A fiddle was heard—to be sure she was there.

That a lady so handsome, so gay; so free, and apparently so very *comeatable* should have been without many admirers, would have been singular indeed,—report so far contradicts this, as to assert her having had a variety of ante-matrimonial amours, even before she left her parents house; but as her late conduct has given opportunity for the *Scandalous Chronicle* * to assert whatever an ill-natured invention might suggest, we shall only relate one circumstance of that kind, which comes

* The Rambler's Magazine.

comes almost immediately from one of the parties who only could disclose the fact.

The son of a respectable farmer near *Isleworth*, little more than her own age, had for some time been her most distinguished favorite; he was her partner at every dance, and her constant companion on every ramble or excursion; it cannot therefore be supposed he should be insensible of such very striking charms as every body allowed *Harriot* to possess, or should not wish for the full enjoyment of that beauty of which he had tasted so many samples, in kisses, embraces, and all the innocent liberties which young ladies of *Harriot's* gaiety are not very scrupulous in bestowing.

Many a scheme had he planned for the accomplishment of his wishes, which some mischance or other had as constantly defeated; the vigilance of her parents, who were conscious enough of their daughter's levity, gave him no opportunity of completing his intentions at home; but accident at length put him in possession of what no machinations would probably have procured.

A company of strolling players had taken permission to exhibit for a few nights at *Hammer-smith*, and as *Harriot* had few opportunities of seeing a *London* theatre, she very readily accepted, and young *C*— conducted her thither with the highest complacency, though ignorant of the happiness to which this jaunt was to lead him.

The evening turned out so very tempestuous, that when they left the playhouse, it was almost impossible to return home, and they therefore went to a relation of Mr. *C*—'s, where he procured a welcome reception for himself and his mistress, not only till the storm should subside, but accompanied with the strongest solicitations to continue the whole night, which was without any reluctance accepted of.

Mr. *C*— was allotted the share of a bed with a young gentleman who lodged at the house; *Harriot* was complimented with a room to herself, which immediately suggested an idea to her lover, of an opportunity which he ought by no means to miss. He wait-

ed therefore 'till his bedfellow was asleep; when arising, and having listened attentively till he concluded all was hushed as he could wish, he carefully ascended the stairs to the chamber of his dear mistress. The transports of his heart, to be so near the completion of his wishes, are more easily imagined than expressed; but, violent as they were, they received an addition when he came into the room, and by a delightful gloom, a friend to lovers, he beheld the lovely *Harriot* in her bed, and fast asleep; her head was reclined on one of her arms, a pillow softer and whiter than that it leaned on—while the other had thrust down the bed-clothes, so far, that all the beauties of her neck and breast appeared to view. He took no little pleasure in gazing on her as she lay—the charming posture she was in, excited every feeling—and he thought it almost criminal to take the advantage of her situation.

Whatever command people may have over their waking thoughts, yet fancy assumes the sovereign sway of our sleeping hours, and brings the most unlikely things to pass. *Harriot* often enjoyed, through the kind assistance of dreams, those pleasures which she had not yet dared to realise; and frequently participated in ideas of blessings which shame and guilt deterred her from in reality. Imagination at this moment was active, and had brought her lover much nearer indeed than he was: for stooping himself down to the bedside, and laying his face close to her's—the action concurring at that instant with her dream, she threw her arm, still slumbering, about his neck, and in a soft voice exclaimed—“ Oh, *C—*, how can you charm me to such height!”—while she continued to embrace him with all the fierceness of love's transports.

Few men in such circumstances, had their notions of honour been ever so delicate, could have quitted the scene, or in so tempting a situation, would not have lost all thoughts but those which the present moment inspired them with.—*C—* tore open his shirt and joined his panting breast to her's, with such tumultu-

ous eagerness, as soon awaked her from an imaginary happiness, to the approaches of a substantial one.

Whatever fondness a woman may possess for her lover—however strong and violent her passions may be in themselves, she always shews, and doubtless may feel a propensity to resist the first attack of love, and make a surrender of her virgin treasure. Such was the case, who though she would as willingly have clasped Mr. C—in her arms, now that she was awake, yet shame urged to repulse his ardour, and check the liberties he was proceeding to take; intreating him in the most pathetic terms to desist and leave her—"I cannot, must not"—(cried the rapturous lover, growing still more bold) "what, when I have thee thus, naked in my arms, trembling, defenceless, yielding, panting with wishes, fierce as my own—no, come my life,—make no more resistance,—nor damp the fire thy charms have raised—"

He now put it out of her power to deny or reproach him, by stopping her mouth with kisses, while with the vigour of youthful love he soon obtained full possession of her charms.—

He stamp'd his image on her tender mind,
And left the strong impression deep behind.

* * * * *

Lovers are seldom contented with one taste of the forbidden fruit; and as the obstacles attending a first gratification of their passion, were now surmounted, it became less difficult to concert future meetings; till at length, want of caution led to suspicion at least, if not to discovery, and Miss *Harriot* was off to service in the house of Mr. *E—g—n* of *Battersea*.

Mr. *E—g—n*, joined the profession of the law to an estate of about 600 *l.* a year; and having pursued his studies with very great assiduity and attention, had acquired some peculiarities in his manners, inseparable perhaps from a sedentary life, and which had rendered a few lessons from Lord *Chesterfield* exceedingly necessary.

Little

Little accustomed to the contemplation of female charms, he soon became captivated by the showy beauties of his mother's favourite maid; and she certainly was never averse to addresses from any one, or to receive any compliment flattering to her beauty. Unhacknied in the ways of women, with whom he was much less conversant than with books, or restrained by principles of honor from attempting any thing against her virtue, he soon made proposals to her in the matrimonial way—proposals which *Harriot*, young as she was, had sufficient discretion not to refuse; and having procured a license, they set off one morning in a hackney coach to *St. Martin's in the Fields*, where they were united in the holy bands of wedlock; at a very early period of life indeed, he not being more than twenty years of age, nor she seventeen.

For a long time they lived together in perfect harmony, Mr. *E—g—n* proving a very indulgent husband, though probably a little too much attached to his books, which, like *Paulo Purganti* †, he might sometimes prefer to his lady, whose levity and thoughtlessness were by no means abated in consequence of her marriage, and which on some occasions, produced a reproach or a censure. *Harriot* very soon became the mother of a fine boy, who is now about seven years old, and in less than two years afterwards made Mr. *E—g—n* a father a second time.

Whatever *faux pas Harriot* may have committed in the connubial state, prior to her connection with Capt. *S—h*. have hitherto remained a secret, or at least been related with such glaring improbability, that we cannot think of obtruding them upon our readers.

The first lover who has been publicly acknowledged to have been happy with this lovely Demi-rep, was Capt. *S—h*, a gentleman of the marine corps, and formerly a school-fellow of Mr. *E—g—n's* : on the conclusion of the late war, having behaved with great bravery on many trying occasions, he became possessed of
sufficient

† *Prior's Tale.*

sufficient leisure to exert his talents for the wars of *Venus*, and to convince the world that his abilities were not inferior in the *bed chamber*, to what they had been on the *quarter-deck*. And on his return to the capital, the Captain renewed his intimacy with his former associates, and on a pressing invitation went to reside for a few months at *Battersea*, with his old companion Mr. *E—g—n*.

Of all the characters which enter society, none can be more agreeable than gentlemen of the naval or military profession, who to a tolerable education and natural parts, add that politeness and freedom which is only gained by an extensive commerce with the world, and a general acquaintance with the different ranks of society. These were endowments which the Captain possessed in an eminent degree, besides a number of those lesser qualifications that never fail to render a man's company pleasing, especially to the ladies. That Mrs. *E—g—n*, therefore, should find something peculiarly agreeable in a man of the Captain's accomplishments, cannot be surprising, when she had been always so ready to form connections with, and grant favors to men who by no means possessed the Captain's attractions.

There was one circumstance highly in favor of any intentions the Captain might have had to be in the good graces of *Harriot*, and which was certainly made a right use of, when his mistress and he came to a proper understanding. In consequence of Mr. *E—g—n*'s application to the law, as well as his private business, he always left his house at *Battersea* early in the morning, and did not return till night: the whole day was therefore left uninterruptedly to the disposal of the lovers, who failed not to enjoy the golden opportunity.

To be so much and so often alone with a fine woman, and not to pay some compliments to her beauty, would have been an arraignment of the Captain's gallantry;—and as every compliment which he bestowed was most favourably received, it was almost impossible to avoid further advances. The pressure of the hand was naturally succeeded by an attempt on the lips,—and while

no resistance was made, an advance to the bosom was the next progression. Repetition, and a variation of those familiarities, were every day continued; whole hours would the walk, accompanied by the Captain, lolling in his arms; whole afternoons would she sit on his knee, leaning on his bosom, permitting him the fondest embraces. to which, instead of being offended, she gave the highest encouragement. She made no hesitation of seating herself on the Captain's knee in no other dress than a night gown and petticoat, without stays, her bosom quite uncovered, while his hands roved wantonly from one spot of delight to another—now pressing the lovely hillocks which rebounded to the touch, and then conveying his hands through her pocket-holes to a place of still finer sensation—an enjoyment with which she seemed particularly pleased and happy.

Imprudence appears to have been a leading feature in *Harriot's* character; for so open was she in the indulgence of those preludes to higher bliss, that on many occasions the servants of the family became spectators of her wantonness; nor were even her own children excluded from the scene. The eldest boy (at the time here alluded to) being one day carried to visit some ladies in the neighbourhood, who were greatly taken with his little tricks, began to assume a number of childish liberties, such as thrusting his hands into their bosoms, and proceeded at last to the same freedom with their petticoats; when being reproved for his boldness, he with great simplicity replied, “That Capt. S——*b* played so with his mama!”

The natural consequence, however, of these scenes of romping and familiarity at last took place. The Captain had probably formed no deliberate plan of seduction; but in such trying situations it is not easy for any man to say what lengths he may go. *Harriot* one day having gone into the Captain's room while he was dressing, attired in her usual loose manner, he caught her in his arms, and after reaping every pleasure that his hands and lips could take, he caught her
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in his arms, conveyed her to his bed, and gave a full indulgence to his heated passions.

From that time every moment was devoted to love and rapture; the Captain was no less athletic than the fair-one was amorous, and all their aim was to invent new scenes of dalliance. The religious old dame, who, as the story goes, resolved to burn every part of her furniture on which her wicked chambermaid had committed fornication with the footman, would here have had sufficient scope for her fiery zeal; for scarce an apartment in the house but was occasionally consecrated a temple to the Paphian goddess. Nor was even the mode of her enjoyments always the same;—she was as well acquainted with the arts of varying pleasure, as if the *Postures of Aretine* had been the only book she ever read. Often have the Captain and she changed cloaths, that they might, by correspondent conduct, change their station in the contest for delight: and while they mutually assisted each other in the change, heightened their fancies by all the endearments of reciprocal fondness. But whether it was on the green moss, under the blue canopy of heaven—whether on the carpet, on the parlour, or in the bedchamber, still enjoyment was her only pursuit; and she never admired her lovers more than when they,

Like the full-acorn'd boar,

———cry'd O!—and mounted.

The *hay-loft*, too, was one scene of their raptures; for according to the trial, p. 13, they frequently went thither under pretence of seeking eggs, in which there is little doubt but *Harriot's* industry was rewarded in the acquisition of such as the Captain could find for her:—such a rustic piece of business might however be a sufficient excuse for the tumbled condition in which she usually returned. The child was here too very imprudently made a spectator of their sport, without having any pastime of his own; and for this perhaps has

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vowed in revenge to tell his father what Captain S—— did to his mama in the hay-loft, and *where* he put the eggs he found. But from this he was deterred by the severe threatnings of his mother to “skin him alive if he said a word of the matter.”

One, and almost the only witness who attempted to urge any thing in extenuation of *Harriot's* conduct, has yet suffered an anecdote to escape her, from which one may be almost led to suppose that she had her hours of *society*, no less than her friend.

It seems Captain S—— and the ladies had retired, during the heat of the day, to a shed in one of the fields adjoining home, where some hay was kept, where they all three sat down to repose themselves; the Captain however, soon began to gambol with *Harriot*, in his accustomed manner, and occasionally made some *tendres* to her fair companion; but as *two to one* are odds at any thing,—and as the lady was neither willing to interrupt the happiness of her friend, nor be a witness of *improper liberties*, she left them for a while to their mutual happiness, and went to contemplate in idea what they experienced in reality. Whether on her return the Captain's complaisance extended so far as to pay each of the ladies the same compliment, is a secret which this amiable witness has not been pleased to divulge.

It has long been an established maxim in the gallant world, “that the woman who is unfaithful to her husband, will be also to her lover,” and *Harriot* had no design to stand forth as an instance of its falsity. While in the height of her intimacy with Capt. S——, she became attracted by the *degagé* manner and address of the Reverend Mr. *W—*, a gentleman who officiated as curate of *B—t—a*, but is chaplain to a regiment that had just then come from abroad.

From what has appeared of *Harriot's* character, it will be readily believed, that the secrecy with which it was attended, was more owing to the prudent management of the curate, than to any discretion on the lady's part. He had frequently visited at the house, in consequence of his clerical character, and a man of his discernment

discernment was soon able to penetrate into the thought and wishes of this amorous fair-one.

Harriot, however unprincipled, and licentious in her general conduct, was not wanting in the necessary arts of her sex, and could, when occasion required, "assume a virtue though she had it not,"—and she was too intelligent not to know, that modesty, tho' not desirable for its own sake, is often highly so for its effects, especially with men, who must professionally assume a more than ordinary share of gravity. When Mr. *W—* therefore acquainted her with his wishes, she chid him for his presumption, and assumed an air of offended virtue. She confessed indeed, that Mr. *W—* might probably have been her choice, had she seen him previous to any other connection—but that choice having been made, virtue compelled her to persist in it : not but, were she a woman of libertine principles, there was no man in the world whom she would sooner prefer as a gallant ; only as the case stood, she considered every advance as an insult to her virtue, and prudence must bid her shun the man who dared to assume such liberties.

The parson was not quite prepared for such a sentimental effusion ;—rallying his forces, however, he expressed his surprise that a lady so accomplished and intelligent as Mrs. *E—g—n*, could be a dupe to such vulgar prejudices, as to suppose the pleasures of love could be criminal, when they followed the wishes of the heart ?—Marriage may sometimes be convenient in certain classes of life, but where the heart was influenced by mere love—how might he exclaim with *Pope*,

Curse on all laws but those which Love has made,
Which free as air, at sight of human ties,
Spreads his light wings, and in a moment flies ;
Oh happy state ! when souls each other draw,
When love is liberty, and nature law ;
When thought meets thought ; 'ere from the lips it part,
And each fond wish springs mutual from the heart ;
This sure is bliss, if bliss on earth there be,
Such be the lot of *HARRIOT* and of me !

But, pray Sir, rejoined *Harriot*, what cause did I ever give you to suppose me capable of—

No cause, my dear angel, (replied he, finding such an abatement of her severity) but the warmest desire of possessing you, and the *hope*, that you might admit me to a share of that bliss you can bestow—and hope you know is the sustainer and comforter of all our misfortunes. You preach well on *hope*, parson, answered she; and of all religious doctrines I am particularly fond of *hope*—especially the *hope of a resurrection*:—but some men unhappily deny it.

It is indeed a pleasing doctrine, and I think particularly delightful to the ladies—cried he, catching her tenderly in his arms, into which she languishingly sunk, and soon received ample proofs of the tenets she had embraced.

* * * * *

Their happy interviews and stolen hours of love were long continued, by the parson's good management, so as to elude the watchful eye of suspicion; not even Captain S— entertaining a jealous sentiment of his successful rival; and probably might have continued much longer, but from the unlucky intrusion of a chambermaid, who going up stairs one evening to shut the windows,* heard somebody gently unlock the door of the chamber, where the little boy used to sleep, when *Harriot* and her reverend confessor came out. The sudden appearance of the girl had a visible effect upon *Harriot*, whose spirits were not yet sufficiently recalled from their extatic flight, not to be alarmed, on the occasion, which she witnessed by telling the girl, "that she came like an apparition, never heard till she was seen." The Priest stalked gravely on, without noticing any thing.

Suspicion now arose in the girl's mind, and curiosity prompted her to examine the chamber they had left; when she discovered that the bed had been much tumbled, though she herself had made it in the morning, and left it quite smooth. She hugged herself on the discovery, and presently went down into the kitchen, where

* See the interesting Trial, p. 14.

where she related the joke, without a diminution of the facts, only dryly adding, that she supposed Mr. *W*— and her mistress had fallen upon the bed together in a fit!

Harriot's character had by this time begun to be not a little suspected on account of her public freedoms with Captain *S*—, which suspicion was increased by the chattering of the little boy. How, or by what means the Rev. Rector of the village came to be acquainted with these things, is not positively ascertained, but on expressing himself with a virtuous warmth of resentment, on the bad example given to his flock, and throwing out some allusions relative to the intimacy with his curate, a suit was instituted against him for defamation, and after a long trial, he was sentenced in 200*l.* damages.

Her intimacy with Mr. *W*—, had no effect upon her connection with the Captain, to whom her favours were continued with the same liberality as ever; and being very fond of riding, they frequently made excursions of ten or twelve miles into the country, or to *Richmond, Windsor, Kew, &c.* taking a servant with them. Their general custom was to stop at some obscure public house, regaling and amusing themselves for an hour or two, while the servant was kept in waiting; or he was sometimes ordered to put up the horses, and take a repast in the kitchen, while his mistress and her lover generally retired to a bed-room, that they might refresh themselves with greater convenience.

It was in one of these excursions that they were accidentally met by the gay and gallant Colonel *T*—, who was immediately struck by the figure of *Harriot*, whose appearance on horseback was indisputably graceful; her beautiful light hair was loosely tucked up under a white hat lined with pink, that gave a charming glow to her complexion, while her riding habit was perfectly adapted to display her figure and shape, so that she appeared altogether a most desirable object. The Colonel perceiving a brother officer, paid his compliments to him and the lady, and contrived to join their company, taking all possible opportunities of saying polite

polite and agreeable things to her. At parting, he easily gained her address, and the very next day took the liberty of waiting on her, who had in the mean time learned from Capt. S——b the name of this new acquaintance, and the confidential capacity which he held with a certain personage, especially in his convivial and pleasurable pursuits.

By this time it will appear pretty evident, that *Harriot* had the most perfect liberality of sentiment, and that her practice was as liberal as her principles. She never met with a handsome well-made man, whom she did not endeavour to make acquainted with her wishes, and if he seemed dull of apprehension, her method to enliven him was the shortest in the world. She generally made some pretence or other to call him into another room, as if she had something of importance to communicate—which she certainly had; for they were no sooner alone than she imparted her secret to him in the fewest and plainest words. And as the room to which she conducted gentlemen was either a bed-chamber, or furnished with a settee, where if her paramour was ready, the business was done without delay.

At the time the Colonel was announced, *Harriot* was sitting in a *tete-a-tete* party with the Captain, whom she left without hesitation, and conducted her new visitor into an adjacent chamber. To relate the particulars of their interview, after having mentioned the preceding remark, would be totally superfluous. The Colonel had indeed come under the idea of procuring a nice dish for his master; but when he found it so invitingly prepared, he could not resist the temptation of having the first taste himself; wisely concluding, according to the old proverb, “that a slice could never be missed from a cut loaf.”

Whether the personage for whom this dainty dish was about to be provided, ever participated of it, or not, is a fact at present impossible to be decided upon: but from the well-known character of the parties alluded to, the reader is left to his own surmises.

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Though very few females who have not actually made *Love* their profession, ever had a greater variety of admirers than *Harriot*,—yet from the easy access which they all had to her person, and the little restraints she was under in her domestic concerns, less of adventure, and greater sameness of event, can scarcely occur in the history of any lady who has been dignified by having her life transmitted to the world. None of her connections had ever the zest of difficulty and danger to heighten their pleasures; for all her lovers have just claim to parody Cæsar's motto, and say, *they came, they saw, and enjoyed*.

Just at the moment when she was satiated both with her marine and clerical lover, or at least when her proneness to inconstancy made her wish for another, Fortune threw a new one in her way, perfectly suited to her wishes.

One afternoon, accompanied by a maid-servant, she took a hackney coach to Buckingham-gate, where she alighted, telling her companion that she was going to see Capt. S——b, and directing her to remain with the coach till her return; which she did in about an hour, attended by the Captain, who handed her into it, and then familiarly bid her adieu, when the coachman was ordered to drive home again.

On passing near the Chelsea water-works, *Harriot* saw a very smart officer, whom she immediately addressed; on his coming up to the coach she invited him in, and he accompanied her home where he staid tea, and continued with her part of the evening.

His lover was not long in being rendered as happy as the former, and soon became a constant visitor, passing whole days at her house when her husband was absent.

The same liberties which had given cause of suspicion in regard of Capt. S——b was so publicly renewed with the new admirer, that no one could doubt of his being equally happy; and every bed in the house gave proof positive of their familiarity, while the poor chambermaids were tired with so repeatedly making them.

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A more full opportunity was about this time (the Spring of 1782) afforded for them to take their full swing of pleasure, by Mr. *E—g—n* going to Oxford, on some business which detained him about six weeks, during which time the Captain was seldom absent,—Parties of pleasure, too, were often formed, which kept them absent the whole night, when an apology was sent to the servants, acquainting them of her intention to sleep abroad.

It was a usual custom with *Harriot*, (who at this time supposed herself to be in a state of pregnancy) to retire to her bed-chamber after dinner, where the Captain constantly followed, to soothe and render her all necessary comfort; the servants were witnesses of his attention, as he would often assist in undressing and putting her to bed, laying himself down beside her, and kissing her in the fondest manner, till the maids retired, and left them to their greater liberty.

A positive discovery had however nearly taken place: for sitting by themselves one evening in the parlour, and having been practising all their wanton fooleries, of the Captain's playing with her bosom, introducing his hands through her pocket-holes, they so far raised their passions as to seek for enjoyment at the very instant, though no situation more convenient than an arm-chair could be procured. Perhaps the inconveniencies attending such a position occasioned a more than ordinary noise, and alarmed the servants, as one of the footmen in a frolic immediately came up stairs, under the pretence of throwing coals on the fire; the noise he made at the entrance gave to the lovers, though they could not sufficiently free themselves from each others embraces in time, to prevent some very extraordinary appearances. The Captain turned aside, confused, and out of breath, while he hastily endeavoured to button up his breeches, (*Vide the Plate*) but the lady seemed to lay languishing in rapture, her head reclined, her neck and bosom quite uncovered, her hair and dress quite in disorder, her legs extended, and her petticoats somewhat above her knees. See the *Trial*, p. 23, &c.

When

When the Captain's attendance upon duty required his absence, *Harriot* used frequently to alleviate the toils of watching through the dismal hours of midnight by enlivening them with her presence. As the regiment to which the Captain belongs, used occasionally to do duty at a well-known station in the city; whenever it became the Captain's turn to attend, *Harriot* (during the six weeks of her husband's absence) never failed to accompany him; usually coming in a coach, and after staying till morning, set off again in the *Chelsea* stage.

The watchman who attended the guard-room, and who was employed to light the Captain's fire, make his bed, and do such similar offices, lay in an adjoining room separated from the other by only a slight partition, by which he had frequent opportunities, when the lady staid all night, to see them in the same bed together, as well as to hear them converse; and often in the morning when he went to light the fire, (when he was admitted by the Captain, the door being locked) he has seen them both rise from bed, and dress themselves on his presence, not perhaps without casting a wishful eye on some of *Harriot's* tempting charms. She commonly breakfasted with her hero before she returned home, while the family imagined she was either on a visit to her mother's or passed the night at a friend's in Covent-Garden. The Captain often congratulated himself on the supreme happiness of this connection, and frequently asked the attendant if he did not think her a most charming woman. She was once imprudent enough to take with her the lady who afterwards appeared in her favour on the trial, and who declares that they both returned the same night; (*Trial*, p. 73.) though another witness seems pretty plainly to deny this. (*Trial*, p. 65)

Their intimacy continued for a greater length of time than usually takes place in connections not founded in sentiments, or any attachment previous to the most unbounded liberties. By the deposition of a very respectable witness it appears, that the Captain continued to visit her for several months, staying both day and night, when the absence of Mr. *E-g-n* would

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permit

permit such indulgence ; during which time the witness saw the most improper familiarities pass between them, while the Captain acted in every respect more like the master of the house than a visitor ; generally coming there within a few minutes after Mr. *E—g—n* had set off for town, and upon admission, without asking any questions, would run up stairs, whistling and singing, to *Harriot's* bed-chamber, dressing-room, or wherever she happened to be. Indeed, he seems to have been under an apprehension that one day they should have come to a consummation before his face ; for while they were in the room beside him, the Captain began to attack her with all the freedom for which, even solitude, in their situation, could not have apologized. He rudely thrust his hands into her bosom, and between her thighs, pushing her up against the book case ; *Harriot* making no resistance, but perhaps understanding his actions as a symptom of coming love, withdrew with him into an adjoining apartments, to grant fruition to his desires.

The Captain used commonly, when uncertain of Mr. *E—g—n's* being at home, to make his appearance at the end of a lane, where he could be seen by *Harriot* from the window ; and on such occasions she would go to him, and either bring him home, or stay some time with him ; and either bring him home, or stay some time with him ; and in fact, while Mr. *E—g—n* was engaged with the company, she has frequently staid with him till eleven or twelve at night.

Minutely to enter into every scene of licentiousness wherein *Harriot* was concerned, would be to swell these Memoirs into volumes, and exhibit a series of such profligate and unprincipled turpitude as would put shame to the blush. Any man, and every man, who but offered to gratify her libidinous appetite, had a welcome reception ; and if she found them backward in their advances, she took every means to dispel their fears, and rouse their sensibility.

She was one evening prepared for Vauxhall, in consequence of an engagement she had made with the famous Sir *J. L—*, (whom she formed an acquaintance with

with in consequence of his consulting Mr. *E—g—n* on some matters respecting a law-suit;) and was to have joined him at *Smith's Tea Gardens*; but having taken a boat at *Battersea*, and finding the waterman to be one of those robust athletic forms whom she knew by experience to be well endowed for the amorous fight, she resolved to have one struggle with him before she surrendered herself to the Phætonic Baronet.

The man perceiving her to be very genteelly dressed, had spread his cloaths upon the seat of the boat, as well to preserve her dress from injury, as to make her situation more agreeable; as soon as they were put off, she squatted herself down fronting the waterman, extending her feet to each side of the boat, as if to preserve a steady posture; and throwing open her cloak and handkerchief gave him a full view of a bosom that was well calculated to raise desire in any heart. She then began to chat with him, admiring the strength and luttiness with which he pulled, while his square-set shoulders and brawny chest, made her heartily wish that strength to be employed on another occasion.

Though the man might doubtless feel inclination arise from the display she gave of her beauties, yet he did not presume to any liberties, till she gave him much farther encouragement. In pretending to adjust her shoe she exhibited part of a well-made leg. The Waterman's sensations began to grow stronger; the agitation of his spirits was visible in every motion—he was scarcely able to conduct his boat, *Harriot* enjoyed his confusion, and having now, she thought, wounded him to the pitch, she carelessly drew up her petticoats under pretence of tying her garter, and artfully threw herself backwards, and sliding down into the middle of the boat,

He saw Elysium and the milky way,
Fair opening to the shades beneath her breast;
In Venus' lap the struggling wanton lay,
And while she seem'd to hide, reveal'd the rest;
A mole, embrown'd with no unseemly grace
Grew near, embellishing the sacred place,

This was indeed too much—and honest *Tug* must have been supereminently stupid to have any longer misunderstood her wishes. So far was nature up in arms, that he scarce preserved recollection to lay in his oars, before he sunk down upon her, and presently gave a proof of his vigour, by the most heartfelt strokes she had ever experienced, and such a profuse libation to the goddess whom they worshipped, that she might be truly said to swim in extacy.

* * * * *

The many exploits of our heroine began now to be loudly spoken of, and her character so freely handled, that suspicions began to dart even across the mind of her husband; though probably he, as is often the case in such situations, was the last who suspected her. He resolved however, to remove her from the scene of censure, and accordingly took a house in the *Adelphi*, exactly opposite to a well-known and very genteel hotel.

No change of place or circumstances will have much influence upon in-born principles or sentiments, *Harriot* had by this time confirmed herself in the opinion, that beauty ought to be as common as the sun and air; that marriage is only the veil of custom, thrown over the desires of nature, which it is a virtue to indulge, either with one's husband, or any other person; and that she who does not indulge them with those she loves, is a slave to that custom which was meant for her convenience; and this maxim she soon began to exemplify.

From the first moment of her appearance at this new residence, it was concluded by the looseness of her manners, that she was not a married, but a kept woman; nothing was more frequent than to see her standing at her bed-chamber window, half undressed, her bosom quite exposed, and from thence make signs to gentlemen, who happened to be at the hotel; sometimes she would throw herself into a variety of lascivious and indecent attitudes.

Some

Some of the gentlemen who frequented the hotel, treated her with the contempt which her wantonneis deserved, while others formed connections with her, as a temporary convenience.

The first upon record was Mr. S——y, who occasionally resided at the hotel, and one day, perceiving her at the window in the usual manner, while he was getting his hair dressed; he returned her compliments of nods, and beckonings to come over to her, by intimating that he would do so, and accordingly set off. Apprehensive, perhaps, of the speedy return of her husband, she judged it improper to gratify their wishes at home, and therefore having called a hackney coach, they drove to a noted bagnio near *Charing-cross*; —and thus commenced an intrigue, which continued so long as she remained in that neighbourhood.

But it will readily be believed from the warmth and levity of her temper, that this was not the only one in which she engaged: in fact, it was soon succeeded by another with a Mr. L——e, whose acquaintance was procured in a similar manner; and upon this plan did she proceed, till she was become as familiarly known by every waiter at the hotels, and in the gardens, as any of those professional nymphs whom they favor with their nightly summons.

In the mean time her behaviour grew more disagreeable to the virtuous and respectable part of the neighbourhood, all of whom totally renounced every degree of intimacy or connection with her, and most cordially wished her out of the neighbourhood; especially the owners of the hotel: while her husband's house was rendered little better than a brothel, by her enormities; and even not content with launching into every irregularity herself, she even wished to involve her own attendant in the same infamy.

Her favourite Captain having paid a visit one day, during the time of her residence in the *Adelphi*, but not immediately finding *Harriot*, and concluding that like mistress like maid, he began taking some rude liberties with the girl, who ran up stairs from him; he pursued
however

however—but, she called some of the other maids to her assistance, when her virtuous mistress having made her appearance, insisting upon the girl's returning, with which she refused, on account of his rudeness; but being at length over-persuaded by her mistress, who told the girl she stood in her own light; *Nancy* consented to go down stairs again with him and her mistress, and they returned to the parlour; where, however, *Nancy* not proving quite accommodating, the Captain and *Harriot* were left together, *their* difficulties and scruples being more easily overcome.

One afternoon she drew over two admirers from the hotel, when having enjoyed themselves for some time over a bottle of wine, she invited one of them, Mr. C——, to view some *ornaments* in the drawing-room, an apartment constantly provided with a sofa, and if the reader attends to a remark we have before made, of the readiness with which she communicated her sentiments on such occasions, he need not be surprized that they had examined the most material *ornaments* in less than a quarter of an hour, nor that the presence or assistance of a third would have been totally unnecessary.

On their return, tea was prepared for the gentlemen, Mr. C——, seating himself by *Harriot*, and throwing his arms round her waist, with all the freedom of a happy lover, while the other sat spectator of their indulgence, in the hopes of being at some other time permitted to see her *ornaments*.

A number of circumstances appear in the *Trial* of this Lady, so fraught with coarse indecency, so fully characteristic of the lewdness and infamy of her conduct, that those who are delighted with such descriptions may have recourse to it, and expect a full gratification of their wanton taste. In these Memoirs, we can only skim the surface of her life, and relate the least indelicate part of her actions: leaving the nice investigations of facts to the gentlemen of Doctors Commons, whereas, by the above work it appeared, that Lady W—, Mrs. N—, and all the race of modern criminals, were vestals in comparison to this lady.

Whatever

Whatever suspicions were framed by her husband relative to the profligacy of her conduct, it does not appear that he was positively convinced thereof, till the gentleman who was his clerk, unable longer to conceal the injuries done to his master, informed him of the business which had been too fully confirmed by the evidence of every servant in the house; when a separation was immediately concluded upon, and she was in April 1784, sent to the house of a gentleman, a particular friend of Mr. E—g—n's, at *Lyme-Regis*, in Dorsetshire, where, besides paying liberally for her board, he allowed her upwards of one hundred a-year for cloaths and pocket-money.

In this place she soon began to appear in her natural colours, and behaved with such levity and indecorum, that she became universally shunned by the respectable part of the town. The strict watch that was put over her actions, prevented her for some time from any public amours, but the family where she resided having occasion to visit London for a few weeks, the management of the house much against its owner's inclination, was committed to *Harriot's* management.

No sooner was she at liberty, than she returned to her career of wantonness with double vigor. In less than two days after their departure, she commenced an intrigue with a baker's son in the neighbourhood, who soon became as constant a visitor at that house, as Capt. S—— had been at *Battersea*.

This gentleman seems unnecessarily to have added fuel to a fire sufficiently strong; for almost on his first acquaintance he presented her with a volume most admirably calculated to instruct even a mind as well initiated in debauchery as *Harriot's*, it was the *Woman of Pleasure*, with coloured plates, and though she had never devoted much of her time to reading, yet she applied herself to this with an assiduity almost unparalleled. In short, it became

—————Her study and delight
To read by day and meditate by night,

Not

Not that it ever became a subject of her nightly meditation when she could procure a proper companion for practising the lessons she received from it: and willing that the knowledge she imbibed should not be confined to herself, she selected a young pupil in the house, a foot-boy, whose mind she endeavoured to enlighten by reading this work to him, and illustrating by personal example the beauties of the plates; telling him, "such were the ways in which gentle folks and poor ones shewed their love for each other." Though the young lad's person was sufficiently promising to make her suppose he would yield her a delicate treat, when tutored to her wishes, yet his youth and diffidence were for some time bars to her success; and notwithstanding she endeavoured to render him lessons practically intelligible by conveying his hands to every part to which the figures alluded, using her own with the same freedom, and placing herself in every posture that the painter had exhibited, still her pupil's bashfulness continued an obstacle to her wishes; and for a while she desisted from her pursuit, but only in consequence of a new connection.

She was sitting in the parlour, when one Mr. D—l, an attorney's clerk passed by, whom it is uncertain whether she had ever before been acquainted with—she tapped on the glass, when the gentleman immediately alighted, and having tied up his horse at the door, walked in. A tour in the garden was soon after proposed by the fair-one, to which place she immediately repaired, and after seating themselves on a grass plat, were sporting themselves with some little innocent liberties, Harriot discovered her young pupil, Simon, peeping at them from a window, where he pretended to be cleaning knives; and enraged that he should be a witness, where he might have been a party, ran and cuffed him for his insolence, telling him he had no business to watch her. She then returned to Mr. D—l, and of the result of their conversation, it will be unnecessary to give any account.

During

During the interval in which *Harriot* discontinued her lessons from *Simon*, she was visited a second time by Mr. *D*—; but *Simon* was advised to go a holiday-making; a scheme which effectually precluded discovery, tho' it could not prevent suspicion.

Neither *Battersea*, nor *London* itself, produced greater variety for *Harriot*, than this rural situation, where she had two lovers within the hour. Capt. *R*—, tho' most probably an entire stranger, by some means became a familiar acquaintance; and was admitted to every freedom; yet during the very time he continued in the parlour with her, one of her acquaintance, whom she called Capt. *S*—, passed by, and she immediately ran to the window, threw up the sash, and invited him to come in.

The Captain being a man of gallantry, immediately alighted, and came in at the window, the other military hero having in the mean time decamped and gone about his business. *Simon* was dispatched with the Captain's horse to a neighbouring inn, but on his return found the parlour fastened on the inside, with the key so artfully placed as to intercept all prospects, at the same time that the window-shutters were closed. Presently, however, the fair one appeared, but *toute en dishabille*, her hair in disorder, her handkerchief unpined, and nearly off her bosom, and all her cloaths in a very suspicious state of confusion.

To the military admirers, succeeded one of the less boisterous cast, and who, like *Simon*, seemed to need some spurring to action—this was the post master of the town, who very soon was admitted to equal honour with all his predecessors. *Simon* here also had the mortification of seeing another reap those blessings which he had not spirit to partake of; the scene was again in the garden, a place for which she seems to have had as strong a propensity, as many other ladies have had for *shrubberies*; in a frolic, she drew off her stocking, and ran bare legged about the trees, till falling on her back, and pretending to have hurt herself, the kind post-master generously gave her all the relief and assistance

ance in his power. Recovering from the hurt she had received, like Atalanta, she began the race again, though as desirous of another tumble as the other had been of the golden fruit, and accordingly she fell a second time,—and a second time did her pursuer shew his benevolence; till fearful perhaps the course would prove an endless one, he prevailed upon her to return into the house.

This gentleman it is presumed, and not without apparent foundation, had been an attendant on the Lectures of the celebrated Dr. *Graham*, of meretricious memory, where he had learnt the efficacy of cold water; for instantly on returning from their amorous play, he requested the use of a *bidet*, a vessel with which *Harriot* was totally unacquainted; but being informed of its use, she provided him with a proper conveniency, presenting him also with a *syringe*, which he presently filled with water, and *Harriot* having placed herself in a proper position, he discharged it * * * *

This gentleman was one of those, who, though they may have no objection to the occasional favors of a pretty woman, are by no means disposed (to use the words of the above great man) for a *family soak*; and on his next visit, when *Harriot* complained of being so much indisposed that she must retire to bed, and requesting him to accompany her to her chamber, he apologised partly on the indelicacy of such a step, and on his having a prior engagement. * * * *

Deserted for a time, as it seems, by all her other admirers, she had again recourse to her pupil *Simon*. Watching an opportunity, therefore, when he was asleep, she stole up to his bed-chamber, dressed only in her shift and petticoat; her first business was to take a full view of his corporeal accomplishments, for which purpose she stripped the bed-cloaths entirely off him, and then drawing up his shirt, stood in silent wonder at the goodly prospect.

Her clerical lover's doctrine of the resurrection she was perfectly attached to, and therefore instantly set about the practice; not doubting the efficacy of her applications;

applications; applications in many cases more powerful than any of those prescribed by the Humane Society.

Simon wakened in this critical situation,—he was half ashamed, and like *Joseph*, wanted to fly from a second *Potiphar's* wife; but she pressed him too closely to admit his escape. One of the house-maids, to whom she had been very assiduous in explaining parts of her favorite book, *The Woman of Pleasure*, had accompanied her in this expedition, probably with the idea of seeing a realization of what had been read to her; but *Harriot* taking pity on *Simon's* modesty, and thinking the presence of a third person might be an obstacle to her own happiness, prudently discharged the girl. Then seating herself on the bed-side by him, she began to question him concerning his notions of love, and what intimacies he had ever formed with the other sex.

These were subjects which, of all others, poor *Simon* was the utmost stranger to. He told her that he had never been in love with any body, except once a little with his cousin *Dolly*, while he staid at his aunt's, before he got a place; and as to his *maidenhead*, as she called it, why—to be sure, he had it till this very day; for that he had never gone *much farther* than snatching a kiss from his cousin.

Harriot became very eager to know what he meant by *much farther*; and leaning tenderly upon his breast, while she introduced his hand into her own bosom, she intreated him to tell her the whole of his adventure with cousin *Dolly*.

“ He informed her then, that one Sunday morning, when he was most certainly tempted by the Devil, he pretended to be unwell, and staid from church, when his cousin *Dolly* was left to take care of the house;—that about twelve o'clock he began to have strange thoughts, and invited his cousin up stairs to his room, under pretence of giving her a new ribband, and some ballads he brought her from *London* with him:—she went with him to be sure, and he gave her the ribband and the ballads;—and the bed being down, he pulled her down, and proposed they should try the tune of the songs.

She sat down, but sighed—and that sigh had such an effect upon him, that he could not sing for want of breath—she saw his confusion, he said, and wanted to get up, while he put his hand gently about her waist to detain her;—she was only dressed in a bed-gown without stays, and the pin that fastened it before coming out, he threw himself upon her bosom—they both fell back without speaking a word—and he was on the point of compleating his wickedness when his aunt knocked at the door—and so we were most providentially interrupted.

But not very pleasantly—said *Harriot*.

Simon said he thought it was for the best. That his aunt seemed to suspect something, and examined his cousin very narrowly; and that she questioned him too, why they were so long in coming to the door: But *Dolly* told her, she had been asleep, and had had a very frightful dream, which put her into a great deal of confusion; though he believed that his aunt examined *Dolly* very narrowly; however, they both fairly escaped.

We never afterwards went the same length—only played ourselves like children—just as your ladyship and I do now.

O *Simon*, cried she, what a fund of pleasure there is in store for you!—And have you no longing to try the same with some other pretty woman, that you only attempted with your cousin?—Do not you wish to practice some of the delights I read you an account of?—You never tasted the food of life, you rogue,—it would be charity to give you a little. Can you be secret, *Simon*, continued she.

He promised to be perfectly obedient to her.

Let us be happy then, said she.

She put herself into a situation to make him so, and had presently the satisfaction of finding that all the lessons she had given him, had by no means been thrown away; and what he wanted in experience was sufficiently atoned for by vigor and inclination.

* * * * *

Simon's

Simon's youth and inexperience, rendered him too liberal in his endeavours to please his lady; for he was by no means a sufficient general to practice any manœuvres with his fair enemy: while poor *Simon* continued the amorous conflicts 'till he became fairly incapable of offering battle, or even accepting a challenge. The intrigue was probably by this means put a period to; and partly by a discovery owing to *Harriot's* imprudence. She had followed *Simon* to his bed-room, where he had undressed himself, and was going into bed, when she made him put on his breeches and follow her down to her own bed-chamber, where she placed him under the bedstead of one of the maids who slept in the same room with her, bidding him hide himself there till they were both in bed, and then he might come to her own. She left him alone for some time, and then returning with the servant, they undressed themselves, and went to their respective beds. *Simon* in the mean time falling asleep, and breathing pretty hard, he was overheard by the servant, who imagined there were thieves in the room; *Harriot* laughed at her notions; but the girl persisting, and bringing lights, looked under the bed, and discovered poor *Simon*, who was immediately dragged from his hiding place, and made to retire to his own apartment—a circumstance which he did not probably much regret.

The time now approaching when *Mr. B* —, the gentleman at whose house *Harriot* resided, was expected home, and being conscious that her conduct had been such as must bring on the severest reprehension from *Mr. B* —, she began to think of retreating from the house. It was true indeed that *Mr. B* — had received such authentic information of her improper conduct during his absence, that he could not, consistent with his character, give her countenance any longer, and had therefore determined to acquaint *Mr. E* — with his resolutions.

Harriot having made up her mind as to her departure, and resolving to bestow some token of her esteem upon the servants of the family, and especially her pupil,

pupil, took an opportunity next day, while they were assembled in the kitchen, to fulfil her intentions.

Having provided a pair of scissors, and some small pieces of paper, she very deliberately drew up her petticoats, and cut a parcel of HAIR from that sacred spot which English ladies think it little less than sacrilege to deface. She then carefully distributed it in little packets to those about her.

Simon indeed was absent at the critical moment of this depredation, but on coming in, and enquiring the business, he was told by one of Mr. *B*—'s children, that Mrs. *E*— had been cutting it off, under her petticoats;—he requested that he might not be forgot among those who shared her favors, she complied, though she expressed herself fearful that if she parted with any more, her husband would discover it. However *Simon* resolved to preserve a token of favor more curious than valuable.

The levity of her character and conduct induced many men of gallantry and dissipation, (who are always fond of increasing the list of females they have been happy with) to pay her an occasional visit. To some of those, her beauty was an irresistible incitement, for the enjoyment of which they could excuse the total want of those engaging complacencies that render female society inviting, even when passion is exhausted. Among this class may be counted Lord *D*—, Mr. *C*—, and some others, who could think her worth pursuing so long as her eyes kept their brilliancy, or her complexion its lustre. But with men of more refined notions in love, and who wished to have something more than what they would purchase at a bagnio, the rudeness of her manners, a total insensibility of mind, and a complete ignorance of all the elegancies of social life, rendered her at once unworthy their future attention. Col. *M*—, as amorous as he is accomplished, had heard her mentioned in the highest terms of praise; but when introduced to her, was equally shocked and disappointed; it is justly observed by the poet,

All naturally fly, what does pursue;
'Tis fit men should be coy, when women sue.

nor

nor could all her advances have the least effect upon the Colonel; and they parted with equal dissatisfaction on both sides.

Harriot seemingly was conscious of the improprieties of her actions, especially before the children of *Mr. B—*, and therefore endeavoured to conciliate the affection of the elder ones, by promises and endearments; and on the last time of *Captain S—y* leaving the house, she offered the eldest daughter of *Mr. B—* a shilling, if she would never inform her father respecting *Capt. S—y's* visits to her.

But one instance of her abandoned profligacy can never be held in sufficient detestation and abhorrence: for not content with gratifying her own depraved appetite by the most unceasing perusal of every performance that could tend to inflame the passions; not content with reading them to the house-maids, foot-boys and grooms, and to every person who visited her, she must endeavour to contaminate the innocent minds of *Mr. B—*'s children, the eldest of whom was a girl of about nine years of age, by shewing and explaining to them the plates in the *Woman of Pleasure*, and such similar works as constituted her library. Circumstances that stamp her character with more odium than all her other infamies united.

The heat of the day having once invited her to bathe, she repaired to the machine, accompanied by one of the maids, where having undressed herself, just as she was preparing to go into the water, she called to a gentleman, whom she addressed as *Mr. L—*, desiring him to come to her; an injunction which he readily obeyed, and he continued alone with her for above a quarter of an hour;—their conversation,—their business—may be guessed—it is not to be repeated.

Immediately after *Mr. L—* had quitted her embraces, she ran into the colder ones of the pure stream,

Her

Her hair bound backward in a spiral wreath,
 Her upper beauties to the sight betray'd.
 The happy stream, concealing those beneath
 Around, her waste, with circling waters play'd
 Who, while the fair-one, on his bosom sported;
 Her dainty limbs with liquid kisses courted.

The lover view'd, as one fatigu'd with heat
 Who near at hand beholds a *SHADY bow'r*;
 Joyful in hope amid the kind retreat
 To shun the dog-star in his noon-tide hour;
 Or as when parch'd with droughty thirst one spies
 A *mossy grove*, whence purest waters rise.

* * * * *

But though many of those chance amours proved highly pleasing to her, she sometimes met with disappointments that greatly hurt her desires, without wounding either pride or delicacy. As she was one day riding abroad, unattended, a shower of rain obliged her to take shelter at an inn on the road, where she had not been many minutes before the same necessity procured her the company of two gentlemen of rank, Sir *P. B*——, and the Hon. Mr. *L*——. The appearance of a well-dressed woman drew their attention, and they exerted their complaisance to entertain her for some time, 'till her language and behaviour excited some unfavorable opinion of the sanctity of her character; they therefore began to treat her with as much gallantry as they had before shewed her respect.—The conversation finally ended in a proposal to draw lots which should be the happy man; Mr. *L*—— was successful, and Sir *P*——, having ordered his horse, rode off. But how great was *Harriot's* mortification, when, without, assuming any further liberties, Mr. *L*—— politely withdrew, with this severe reproach, “that he could not think of being under the obligation of *favours* from a lady, whose charms he perceived were free to every man!”—and then followed his friend.

In this unlimited pursuit of unlicensed pleasure, without taste, or the idea of any indulgence but the grossest sensual appetite, was she daily occupied, when she encountered a new lover, whose notions and whose feelings were

were perfectly congenial to her own—he was the coachman of a gentleman in the neighbourhood; she had seen him ride out with his horses—a pair of animals much superior in mental accomplishments (if the expression may be allowed) to him who controuled them; and she contrived to throw herself in his way at a time when he was alone. She was not wanting in the means of commencing an acquaintance—and her wishes were soon explained, and as soon understood. The stables (which the reader who is versed in the amorous history of the present century, may recollect was the scene of love between Lady L—— and one of her admirers) became now the altar of *Paphos*, where *Harriot* and her Driver sacrificed most liberally. But *fear*, rather than the shame of an open detection, urged her to have his visits occasionally at home.

He was introduced to Mr. B——'s as bringing a letter from her husband, under favor of his own master, and was taken to a parlour where *Harriot* longingly expected him. Her eyes sparkled with desire on his entrance; she showered on him the most unbounded caresses, stifled him almost with her ardent kisses, which she accompanied with the most wanton looks and actions.

The brute was little moved by all her expressions of fondness, though they were couched in the most voluptuous language—he was actuated by only a mechanical sense of pleasure, totally ignorant of gallantry—a stranger to delicacy or taste, but strongly animated by the feelings of animal nature. The enjoyments of downright sense were those that *Harriott* only panted after, and she was fully gratified in the arms of her stupid paramour.—When he had indulged the lady's wishes, he departed.

One might here give way to reflection on the complete depravity of *Harriot's* mind, on admitting to her embraces an object deserving of such supreme contempt; those with whom she had hitherto satiated her lust, were heavenly beings compared to this *Caliban*—but in abandoning herself to such a boor, she proved her taste was a less grossly sensual, than that her heart was totally destitute of every sentiment of virtue or delicacy.

While the coachman continued her favorite, she received an epistle from her quondam lover, Mr. C——; the

F

gentleman,

gentleman whom she conducted to see her ornaments in the drawing-room, at the time she lived in the *Adelphi*. The subject of the letter was to inform her of his intentions to visit her, and make a renewal of their intimacy. *Harriot* received this information with pleasure, which soon was heightened by the actual arrival of her inamorato, with whom she repeated all her guilty pleasures;—her love of variety, and her love of vice seeming, as *Pope*,

To grow with her years, and strengthen with her strength.

And though her intercourse with this gentleman was not less criminal, it was certainly less contemptible and degrading to her than the one she broke through to renew this.

* * * * *
Some little time before her returning to *Isleworth*, a lover of a singular character presented himself to her in as singular a manner:—it was the *Rev. Mr. B*—, a title he might well assume from his sanctimonious appearance, who had become desirous of adding her to the number of his female converts. He opened his designs to her—he talked of repentance—regeneration—new birth, and a multitude of subjects of which *Harriot* had never once thought—he continued his conversation some time, and doubtless said many good things to her;—though all the while his rosy looks and animated features seemed to say, that the influence of the spirit was not always sufficient to resist the impulses of the flesh:—she disliked trifling, and would have given up a thousand fine speeches at any time for one vigorous effort—she therefore put a truce to religion and sentiment, and the conversation concluded in a manner that required no witnesses, though it might occasion new cause for repentance.

But the moment was now arrived for putting her plan of elopement in execution; and on receiving certain intelligence of *Mr. B*— and his family being on their return home, she immediately left *Lyme*, and retreated to the house of her father-in-law, *Mr. S*— at *Isleworth*.

The conduct of *Harriot*, during her stay at *Lyme*, was related to *Mr. B*— in the fullest manner; all his friends declaring that they must have denied themselves the pleasure of visiting at his house, while he had continued to keep

keep a woman of such abandoned effrontery under his protection. It was not without reluctance that this gentleman communicated such intelligence to his friend, Mr. *E—g—n*: but justice required the task; and upon a consultation of the friends of Mr. *E—g—n*, it was judged most expedient to take proper measures for a divorce. Sufficient witnesses were readily procured to substantiate every charge, and to give accounts of many unsuspected crimes.

To give the evidence, who had seen *Harriot* in bed with Capt. *B—*, when she used to visit him at the Bank, an opportunity of fully assuring himself that she was the identical lady in question, Mr. *B—*, at the request of his friend, went to pay her a visit at her father-in-law's, when *B—x—r* pretended accidentally to call on Mr. *B—*, and he was accordingly present when *Harriot* was spoken to and addressed as the wife of Mr. *E—g—n*: a circumstance that involved her in much confusion at the time, as she perfectly recollected *B—x—r*, and could not doubt what was in agitation against her; and in consequence of which she wrote to Mr. *B—* at *Lyme*, expostulating with him how he could treat her so disingenuously; she was sure that he must have seen her distress on that occasion; and she scarcely thought that a man of honour and feeling could act a part so repugnant to right, as to introduce a person into her company with the direct purpose of doing her an injury.

The event of this business is sufficiently known by the publication of the TRIAL; to which the curious Reader, who is desirous of more accurate or explicit information, is referred—a production indeed of the most singular, and which, as has been said justly of it, that the essence and quintessence of all the Trials for Adultery, that have ever appeared in the *Rambler's Magazine*, or any other publication, are *chaffity* to this.

Since the known defection of this fair one, and particularly since her total separation and divorce, the frail sisterhood have been congratulating themselves upon the acquisition of so experienced a veteran; and she has received compliments from such of them as are in *England*,
offering

offering their service to introduce her more effectually into the gay world; where it is not doubted that her personal charms will gain her as many votaries as ever swelled the train of a Mahon, a Dalrymple, or a Robinson.

Mr. E—— is said to be making interest to procure a divorce in the House of Lords; that he may be enabled again to marry; for which purpose the cause will undergo a new trial in that august assembly:—and it is sincerely to be wished he may enjoy greater satisfaction in his next matrimonial voyage.

F I N I S.



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